

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2006

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1726**

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**Introduced by Senator Lowenthal**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Huff)*

February 24, 2006

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An act *to amend Section 375 of, and to add Section 25353 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1726, as amended, Lowenthal. Vehicles:—~~commercial and common carriers: identification~~ *publicly owned transit system buses: illuminated signs.*

(1) Existing law requires buses to be equipped with identification lamps and signs and lighting, as specified.

Existing law makes violation of operating provisions of the Vehicle Code a crime.

This bill would authorize buses, operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly scheduled service, to be equipped with certain illuminated signs, as specified. The bill would require that the illuminated signs adhere to certain specifications; and would thereby create a new crime and impose a state-mandated local program. *The bill would revise "lighting equipment" to include these illuminated signs.*

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     *SECTION 1. Section 375 of the Vehicle Code is amended to*  
2     *read:*

3     375. "Lighting equipment" is any of the following lamps or  
4     devices:

5     (a) A headlamp, auxiliary driving, passing, or fog lamp, fog  
6     taillamp, taillamp, stoplamp, supplemental stoplamp, license  
7     plate lamp, clearance lamp, side marker lamp, signal lamp or  
8     device, supplemental signal lamp, deceleration signal device,  
9     cornering lamp, running lamp, red, blue, amber, or white warning  
10    lamp, flashing red schoolbus lamp, side-mounted turn signal  
11    lamp, and schoolbus side lamp.

12    (b) An operating unit or canceling mechanism for turn signal  
13    lamps or for the simultaneous flashing of turn signal lamps as  
14    vehicular hazard signals, and an advance stoplamp switch.

15    (c) A flasher mechanism for turn signals, red schoolbus lamps,  
16    warning lamps, the simultaneous flashing of turn signal lamps as  
17    vehicular hazard signals, and the headlamp flashing systems for  
18    emergency vehicles.

19    (d) Any equipment regulating the light emitted from a lamp or  
20    device or the light sources therein.

21    (e) A reflector, including reflectors for use on bicycles, and  
22    reflectors used for required warning devices.

23    (f) An illuminating device that emits radiation predominantly  
24    in the infrared or ultraviolet regions of the spectrum, whether or  
25    not these emissions are visible to the unaided eye.

26    (g) *An illuminated sign installed on a bus that utilizes an*  
27    *electronic display to convey the route designation, route number,*  
28    *run number, or any combination of these information.*

29    ~~SECTION 1.~~

30    *SEC. 2. Section 25353 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:*

31    25353. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 25400 and 25950, a bus  
32    operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly  
33    scheduled service may be equipped with illuminated *signs that*

include destination signs, ~~illuminated~~ route-number signs, ~~illuminated~~ run-number signs, or a combination thereof, visible from any direction of the vehicle, that emit any light color, *other than red*, pursuant to the following conditions:

(1) Each ~~illuminated destination sign, illuminated route-number sign, or illuminated run-number sign~~ shall emit diffused nonglaring light of not more than 0.05 candela per square inch of area during nighttime conditions. ~~Verification of this luminance specification may be made by measuring the average luminous intensity and dividing this intensity by the total display area of the sign.~~ *with sufficient luminance to be legible to a person with a vision of 20/200, at a distance of 30 feet.*

(2) Each ~~illuminated destination sign, illuminated route-number sign, or illuminated run-number sign~~ shall be limited in size to a display area of not greater than 720 square inches.

(3) Each ~~illuminated destination sign, illuminated route-number sign, or illuminated run-number sign~~ shall not resemble *or* nor be installed in a position that interferes with the visibility or effectiveness of a required lamp, reflector, or other device upon the vehicle.

(4) *Each illuminated sign shall display information directly related to public transit service, including, but not limited to, route number, destination description, run number, and public service announcements.*

(b) Dynamic messaging is permitted on all illuminated ~~destination signs, illuminated route-number signs, and illuminated run-number signs~~, if the practice adheres to the following requirements:

(1) “Paging,” meaning character elements or other information presented for a period of time and then disappearing all at once before the same or new elements are presented, is permitted if the display time of each message is between 2.7 and 10 seconds. Blanking times between each message shall be between 0.5 and 25 seconds.

(2) “Streaming,” meaning character elements or other information moving smoothly and continuously across an LED display, is permitted if the character movement time, from one end of the display to the other, is at least 2.7 seconds, and the

1 movement time of the entire message does not exceed 10  
2 seconds.

3 ~~SEC. 2.~~

4 *SEC. 3.* No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
5 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
6 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
7 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
8 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the  
9 penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section  
10 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a  
11 crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the  
12 California Constitution.